

## COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

### Inter-office Communication

**DATE:** 11/14/2025

**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John Rodgers, Interim Director, Department of Transportation  
Steve Fuentes, President & CEO, Milwaukee County Transit System

**SUBJECT:** From the Interim Director, Department of Transportation and the President & CEO, Milwaukee County Transit System, request approval for an update of the MCTS Agency Safety Plan (ASP).

**FILE TYPE:** Action Report

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#### **REQUEST**

Per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) updates, must be approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

#### **POLICY**

On July 19, 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Rule requiring large public transportation systems to develop a plan that includes processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS).

#### **BACKGROUND**

SMS is a formal, organization-wide approach to managing safety risks and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk mitigation activities. Implementing the PTASP will enable MCTS to proactively address organizational problems that lead to safety hazards, identify system-wide trends in safety and manage emerging hazards before they result in incidents or accidents. The MCTS Agency Safety Plan addresses FTA requirements for key elements such as:

- Safety performance targets
- Safety policies, procedures, and accountabilities
- Safety risk management strategies and safety assurance procedures
- Safety promotion and training and communication efforts aimed to inform employees about how to identify and report safety concerns

Overall, the safety plan formalizes and elevates MCTS's commitment to building a strong safety culture across the organization. The Agency Safety Plan is available for review online at [www.ridemcts.com/agencysafetyplan](http://www.ridemcts.com/agencysafetyplan)

The most recent version of the ASP was approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in May 2024. File #:24-458.

On September 15, 2025 the Milwaukee County Transit System Safety Assurance Committee (SAC), which includes an equal number of MCTS Management and ATU-998 representatives, majority agreed on the following amendments to the ASP:

- Responsibilities of the Director of Risk Management/Chief Safety Officer
- Membership of the Safety Assurance Committee
- Direct notifications of reported safety hazards
- Updates to position titles and organizational charts

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.

3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Public Transportation Agencies must obtain approval for all updates and modifications of their agency safety plan by the governing Board, in this case, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The Interim Director, Department of Transportation recommends adoption of the Agency Safety Plan updates.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no fiscal impact to approve updates to the MCTS Agency Safety Plan. Operating costs related to safety management are already a part of annual budget as approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The Plan will be implemented and managed with existing staff time.

### **TERMS (If applicable)**

N/A

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

John Rodgers, Interim Director, MCDOT, [john.rodgers@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:john.rodgers@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

Steve Fuentes, President & CEO, MCTS [SFuentes@mcts.org](mailto:SFuentes@mcts.org)

Sandra Kellner, Chief Administrative Officer, MCTS [Skellner@mcts.org](mailto:Skellner@mcts.org)

Brittany Bertsch, Director of Safety, Security & Project Management, MCTS

[bbertsch@mcts.org](mailto:bbertsch@mcts.org)

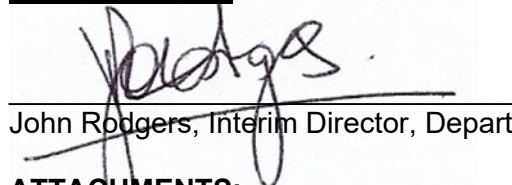
Nilsa Rosado Jurkiewicz, Director of Risk Management, MCTS [nrjurk@mcts.org](mailto:nrjurk@mcts.org)

### **PREPARED BY:**

Brittany Bertsch, Director of Safety, Security and Project Management, MCTS

Nilsa Rosado-Jurkiewicz, Director of Risk Management, MCTS

### **APPROVED BY:**



John Rodgers, Interim Director, Department of Transportation

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

MCTS Agency Safety Plan

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk